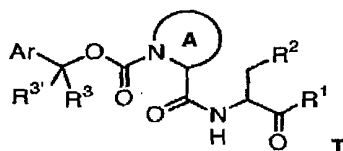
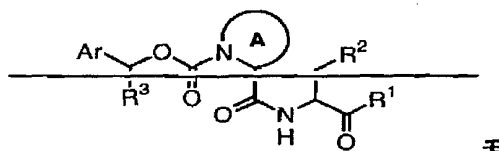


IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the amended the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I:



wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted ~~piperidine~~,

tetrahydroquinoline or tetrahydroisoquinoline ring;

R¹ is ~~hydrogen~~, -H, -CHN₂, -R, or -CH₂Y;

R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclalkyl group;

Y is an electronegative leaving group;

R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and

R³ is ~~hydrogen~~ -H, and R³ is -H, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, -F, CN, or aryl;

or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms; or

R³ and R³ are each -F.

2. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~having one or more of the following features:~~, wherein

~~(a) R¹ is CH₂F;~~

~~(b) R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;~~

~~(c) R³ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl; and~~

~~(d) Ar is an optionally substituted aryl.~~

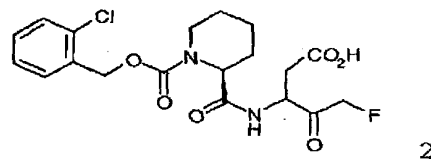
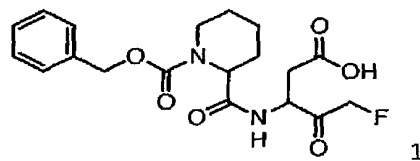
3. (currently amended) The compound of claim 2 having the following features: (a) R¹ is CH₂F; (b) R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof; and (c) R³ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl; ~~and (d) Ar is an optionally substituted aryl.~~

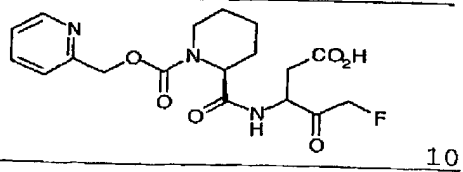
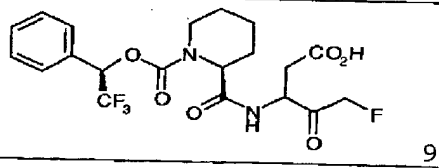
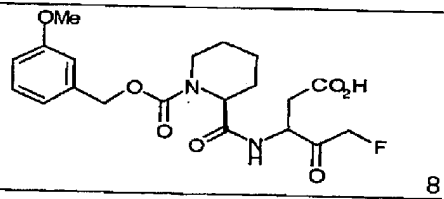
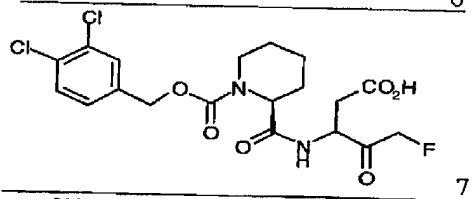
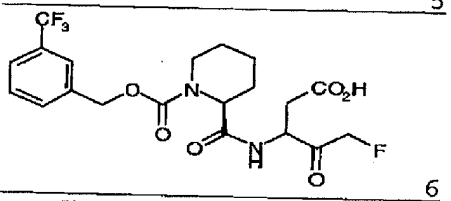
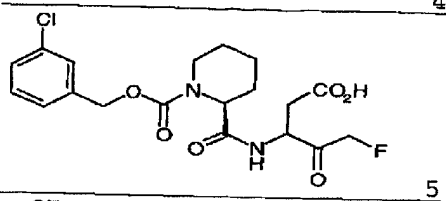
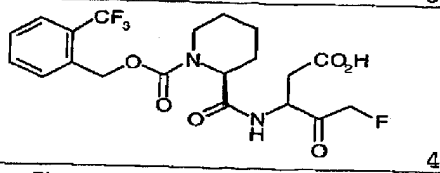
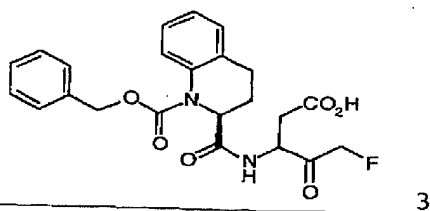
4. (cancelled)

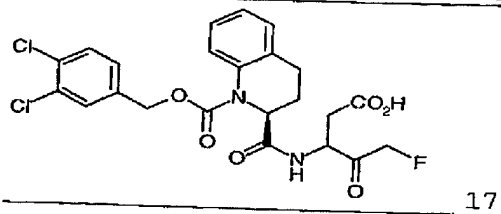
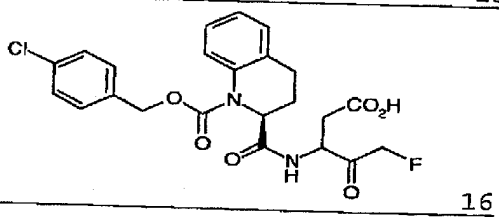
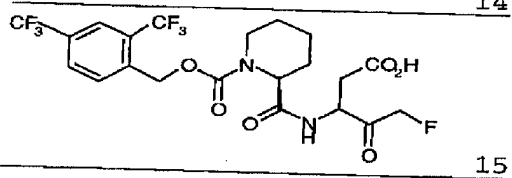
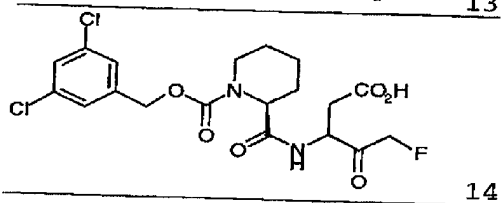
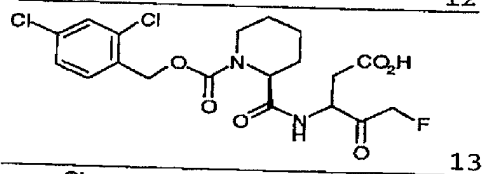
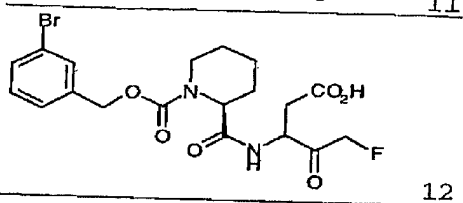
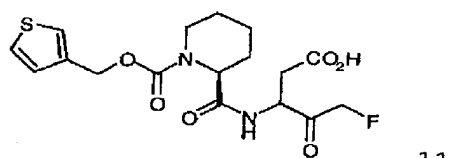
5. The compound of claim 3 where Ring A is a tetrahydroquinoline ring.

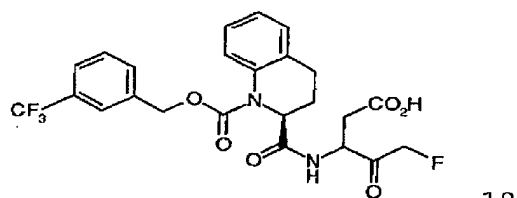
6. The compound of claim 3 where Ring A is a tetrahydroisoquinoline ring.

7. (currently amended) ~~The A compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the compounds listed in Table 1~~

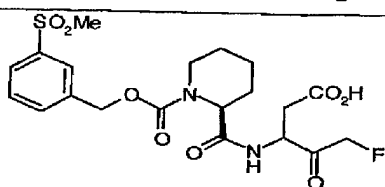




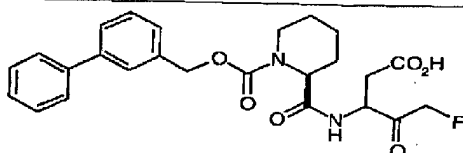




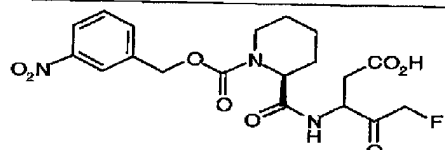
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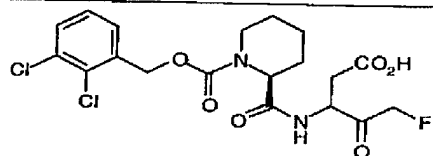
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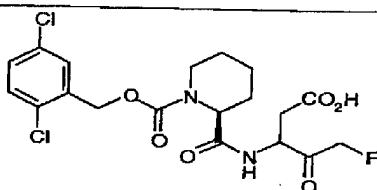
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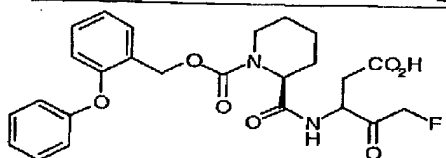
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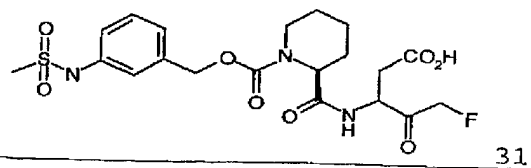
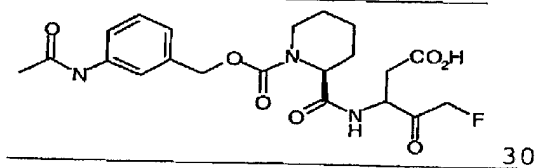
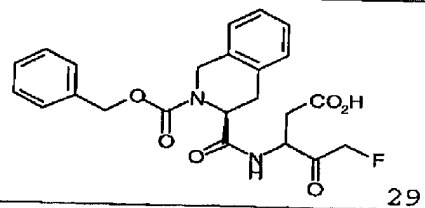
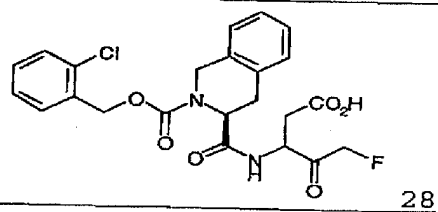
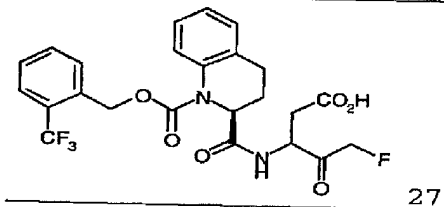
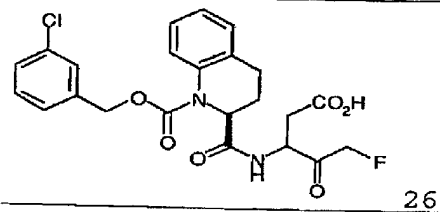
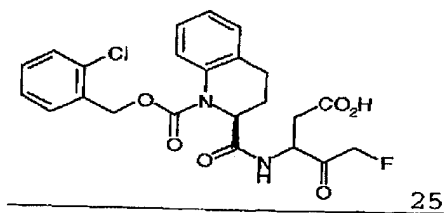
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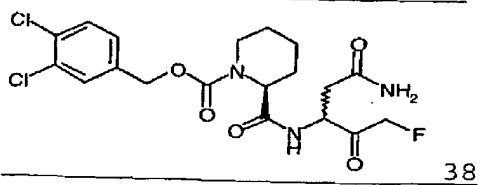
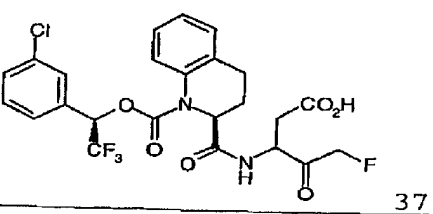
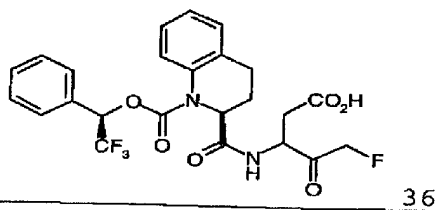
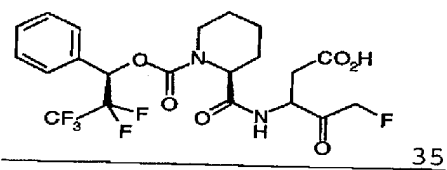
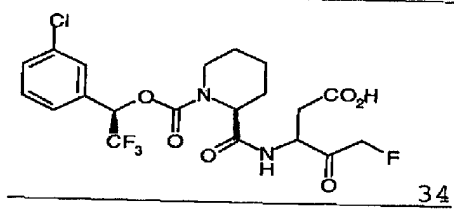
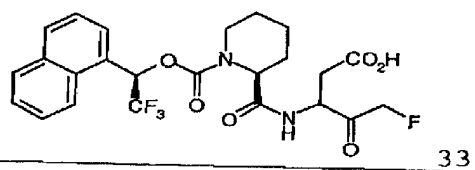
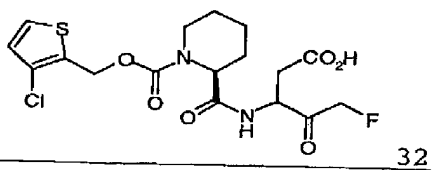


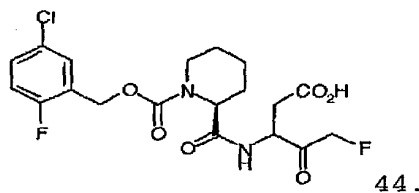
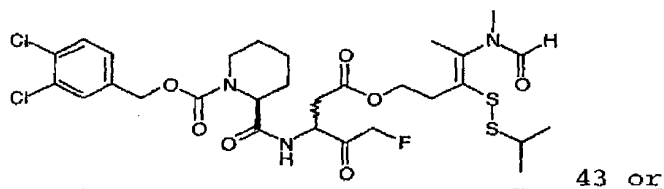
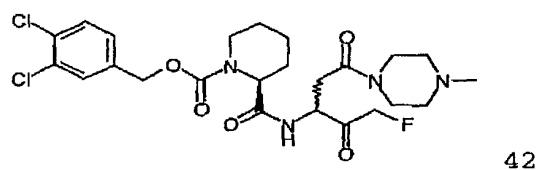
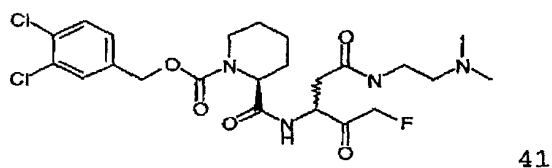
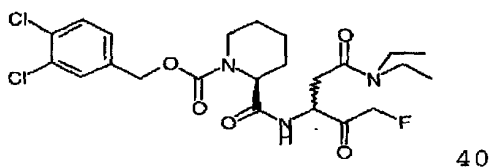
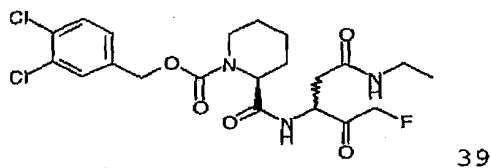
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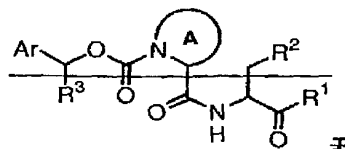
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8. A method for treating a condition or disease state in mammals that is alleviated by treatment with a caspase inhibitor, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-3, 5-7 or 18-42 of formula I:



wherein:

~~Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine, tetrahydroquinoline or tetrahydroisoquinoline ring,~~

~~R¹ is hydrogen, CHN₃, R, or CH₂Y,~~

~~R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclylalkyl group,~~

~~Y is an electronegative leaving group,~~

~~R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof,~~

~~Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group, and~~

~~R³ is hydrogen, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, F₂, CN, aryl, or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms.~~

9-11. (cancelled).

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the disease is selected from an IL-1 mediated disease, an apoptosis mediated disease, an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, a destructive bone disorder, a proliferative disorder, an infectious disease, a degenerative disease, a disease associated with cell death, an excess dietary alcohol intake disease, a viral mediated disease, uveitis, inflammatory peritonitis, osteoarthritis, pancreatitis, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, glomerulonephritis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, chronic thyroiditis, Grave's disease, autoimmune gastritis, diabetes, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, chronic active hepatitis, myasthenia gravis,

inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, scarring, graft vs host disease, organ transplant rejection, osteoporosis, leukemias and related disorders, myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma-related bone disorder, acute myelogenous leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, metastatic melanoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, multiple myeloma, haemorrhagic shock, sepsis, septic shock, burns, Shigellosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Kennedy's disease, prion disease, cerebral ischemia, epilepsy, myocardial ischemia, acute and chronic heart disease, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary artery bypass graft, spinal muscular atrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, HIV-related encephalitis, aging, alopecia, neurological damage due to stroke, ulcerative colitis, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, hepatitis-B, hepatitis-C, hepatitis-G, yellow fever, dengue fever, ~~or~~ Japanese encephalitis, ~~various forms of~~ liver disease, including alcoholic hepatitis, renal disease, polyaptic kidney disease, H. pylori-associated gastric and duodenal ulcer disease, HIV infection, tuberculosis, and meningitis.

13. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used to treat complications associated with coronary artery bypass grafts.

14. ~~The A method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used~~ for the preservation of cells, said method comprising the step of bathing the cells in a solution of the a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof according to any one of claims 1-3, 5-7, or 18-42.

15. The method of claim ~~8-14~~, wherein ~~the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof is used~~ the cells

are in an organ for use in an organ transplant or for preserving in a blood products.

16. The method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used as a component of immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims ~~1-7~~ 1-3, 5-7, or 18-42 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (new) The compound of claim 1 where Ring A is a tetrahydroquinoline ring.

19. (new) The compound of claim 1 where Ring A is a tetrahydroisoquinoline ring.

20. (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is CO_2H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.

21. (new) The compound of claim 20, wherein R^1 is CH_2F .

22. (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

23. (new) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is C_{1-6} haloalkyl.

24. (new) The compound according to claim 23, wherein R^3 is CF_3 .

25. (new) The compound according to claim 23, wherein R^3 is C_2F_5 .

27. (new) The compound of claim 22, wherein R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.

- ArC(R3)(R3')OC(=O)N1C(=O)NC(R2)C(=O)R1

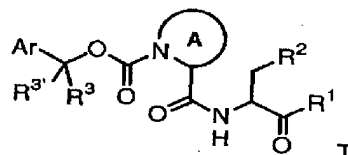
or R^3 and $R^{3'}$ are each $-F$; provided that R^2 is not $-\text{CH}_2\text{-tetrazolyl}$.

- ArC(R3)(R3')OC(=O)N1C(=O)NC(R2)C(=O)R1

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R^1 is hydrogen, CHN_2 , or $-CH_2Y$;
 Y is F, Cl, Br, I, $-OSO_2$ aryl, $-OSO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-OSO_2CF_3$, $-OR'$,
 $-SR'$, $-OC=O(R')$, or $-OPO(R^4)(R^5)$;
 R^2 is CO_2H , CH_2CO_2H , or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;
 Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group;
 $R^{3'}$ is $-H$, and R^3 is $-H$, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, CN,
 or aryl;
 or R^3 is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially
 saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2
 heteroatoms;
 or R^3 and $R^{3'}$ are each $-F$;
 R^4 and R^5 are independently $-R'$ or $-OR'$; and
 R' is an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a
 carbocyclic group, an alkyl carbocyclic group, a heterocyclic
 group, or an alkyl heterocyclic group, wherein each group is
 optionally substituted.

30. (new) A compound of formula I:

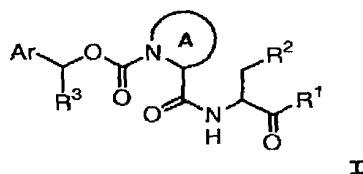


wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine ring;
 R^1 is hydrogen, CHN_2 , R, or $-CH_2Y$;
 R is an unsubstituted aliphatic group, an optionally substituted
 aryl group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or
 an optionally substituted heterocyclalkyl group;
 Y is F, Cl, Br, I, $-OSO_2$ aryl, $-OSO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-OSO_2CF_3$, $-OR'$,
 $-SR'$, $-OC=O(R')$, or $-OPO(R^4)(R^5)$;
 R^2 is CO_2H , CH_2CO_2H , or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;
 Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group;

$R^{3'}$ is -H, and R^3 is -H, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, CN, or aryl;
 or R^3 is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms;
 or R^3 and $R^{3'}$ are each -F;
 R' is an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a carbocyclic group, a carbocyclalkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a heterocyclalkyl, wherein each group is optionally substituted; and
 R^4 and R^5 are independently - R' or - OR' .

31. (new) A compound of formula I:



wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine ring;
 R^1 is -H, - CHN_2 , -R, or - CH_2Y ;
 R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a heterocyclalkyl group;
 Y is an electronegative leaving group;
 R^2 is CO_2H , CH_2CO_2H , or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;
 Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and
 R^3 is a C_{1-6} haloalkyl.

32. (new) The compound according to claim 31, wherein R^3 is CF_3 .

33. (new) The compound according to claim 31, wherein R^3 is C_2F_5 .
34. (new) The compound according to claim 29, wherein R^1 is $-H$.
35. (new) The compound according to claim 29, wherein R^1 is $-CH_2F$.
36. (new) The compound of claim 29, wherein R^1 is $-CH_2OR'$.
37. (new) The compound of claim 29, wherein R^2 is CO_2H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.
38. (new) The compound of claim 37, wherein R^1 is CH_2F .
39. (new) The compound of claim 29, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl.
40. (new) The compound of claim 39, wherein R^1 is CH_2F .
41. (new) The compound of claim 39, wherein R^2 is CO_2H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.
42. (new) The compound of claim 41, wherein R^1 is CH_2F .